



Goodhue County Cooperative Electric

A Touchstone Energy Partner



January 29, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC - MAILROOM

Re: Notice of Inquiry—WT Docket No. 02-381

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are aware of the FCC's Notice of Inquiry with respect to issues relating to the provision of wireless services to rural areas. I am writing to let you know of the necessity of reliable wireless communications services throughout the rural areas here in Goodhue County.

We are an electric cooperative providing electric service in our area. In order to attract even greater economic development to our area, it is important that our region have the necessary infrastructure to support a vibrant anti growing business climate.

In recent years, we have come to greatly appreciate the critical role wireless services play in the delivery of business communications throughout our community, but especially in the rural portions of Goodhue County. In fact, our primary concern is how we can achieve even better wireless connections throughout all of our rural areas. In light of the events of September 11, 2001, the need for effective wireless communications to respond to emergency situations is increasingly important to us.

I specifically want to comment on the essential nature of continued adequate support from the Universal Service Support Fund (USF) to eligible wireless service providers. Support of wireless services from the USF will promote improvements to wireless infrastructure and better viability of wireless service in our rural areas. The wireless carriers that now serve or may potentially serve our community are just now getting the opportunity to realize benefits from the USF for their service improvements. I strongly urge the FCC to make sure that substantial support from the USF remains available to our wireless carriers to help them fulfill the goal of providing service throughout our rural areas in the Goodhue County area.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments

Sincerely,

Douglas Fingerson
General Manager

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